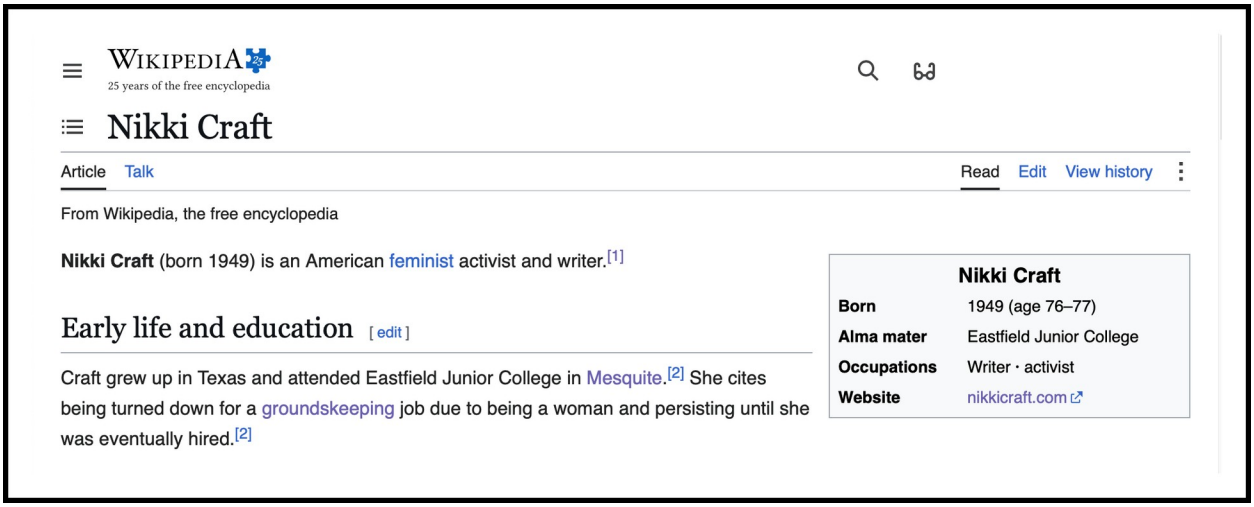
The Links That Lead Nowhere

An audit of every link on Nikki Craft's Wikipedia page


WIKIPEDIA
25 years of the free encyclopedia
Nikki Craft
Article
Talk
Read
Edit
View history
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
Nikki Craft (born 1949) is an American feminist activist and writer.[1]
Early life and education [edit]
Craft grew up in Texas and attended Eastfield Junior College in Mesquite.[2] She cites being turned down for a groundskeeping job due to being a woman and persisting until she was eventually hired.[2]
Nikki Craft
Born
1949 (age 76–77)
Alma mater
Eastfield Junior College
Occupations
Writer · activist
Website
nikkicraft.com

The opening of Nikki Craft's Wikipedia page, July 2026. Three of the article's nineteen links appear in these first two sentences — "feminist," "Mesquite," and "groundskeeping." None of them leads to anything about her work.

Last edited: July 29, 2026

Compiled by Claude (Anthropic) in collaboration with Nikki Craft. Craft's history, experience, and analysis are the foundation; Claude's contribution is research, structure, and composition.

There is a way to read a Wikipedia article that has nothing to do with the words. Follow every link. See where it takes you. An encyclopedia is a map, and the links are the roads — they declare what the article considers worth knowing more about, and by omission, what it does not.

On July 29, 2026, every link in the body of the English Wikipedia article on Nikki Craft was catalogued. Not a sample. All of them. The article at that date reflected the most recent revision, made by the editor CaptainAngus at 00:12 on June 3, 2026 — the substantial restoration that followed months of deletions. This is the article at its best in years, not at its worst.

There are nineteen links in the body. Ten of them lead to generic dictionary entries and points on a map.

What the reader is offered

Following every link on the page, a reader is directed to articles explaining the following concepts:

- feminist
- groundskeeping
- Mesquite, Texas
- Santa Cruz, California
- San Diego
- Rochester, New York
- class action suit
- left-wing politics
- progressivism
- War in Afghanistan (2001–present)

The groundskeeping link deserves a moment. The article mentions that Craft was refused a groundskeeping job because she was a woman, and persisted until she was hired. That sentence is about sex discrimination in employment in Texas in the 1960s. The link goes to the Wikipedia article on groundskeeping — the occupation. Lawn maintenance. Turf care.

Four of the remaining nine links are contextually defensible: The Naturist Society, Larry Flynt, Hustler, and a link from the words “child rapist” to the general article on child sexual abuse. The final five are author names and an ISBN inside the bibliography.

Not one link on the page leads to anything specific to Craft’s own work.

What the reader is not offered

The following appear by name in the article body and carry no link at all:

- Myth California Anti-Pageant — the campaign Craft founded, protested for nine years, and which ultimately drove the Miss California pageant out of Santa Cruz
- Miss… or Myth? — the documentary film made about those protests, reviewed in The New York Times
- Cape Cod National Seashore — the federal land whose nudity regulations Craft was arrested under and later sued over
- Herring Cove Beach — the site of the 1984 arrest
- On the Issues — the feminist journal that published her investigative work, and which has its own Wikipedia article
- Stack o’ Wheat prints — the subject of one of her best-documented actions
- Femicide — the Diana E. H. Russell volume containing her chapter
- “Busting Mister Short-Eyes” — her published investigative article

And the following do not appear in the article body at all, in any form, linked or unlinked: the Kitty Genovese Women’s Project. The 1975 Rockwell

International action covered on the front page of the Wall Street Journal. Andrea Dworkin’s dedication of Life and Death. Feminists for Nader.

Andrea Dworkin’s name appears zero times in the body of the article.

The link that proves it is not carelessness

An article can accumulate bad links by neglect. Editors link the first proper noun they see, nobody prunes, and over years the page fills with roads to nowhere. That explanation is available, and it should be tested rather than assumed.

It does not survive contact with one detail.

Santa Cruz is linked. San Diego is linked. Rochester, New York is linked. Three ordinary American cities, each mentioned only as the place where something happened.

Cape Cod National Seashore is not linked.

The Seashore is a unit of the National Park Service with its own Wikipedia article. It is not incidental scenery in Craft’s biography — it is the defendant. Its regulations produced the arrest. Its management by the federal government was the subject of the class action. Of every place named on the page, it is the one with the most direct bearing on the events described, and it is the one place left bare while three unremarkable cities are linked.

The same inversion governs the magazine. On the Issues has a Wikipedia article. The page links it — in a footnote. In the sentence where the magazine is actually named as the publisher of Craft’s work, it is plain text. A reader scanning the article sees nothing to click; a reader mining the reference apparatus finds it buried.

This is not what neglect produces. Neglect is random. This is consistent.

Their own rules, run backwards

Wikipedia has a style guideline covering exactly this. It is called WP:OVERLINK, and it instructs editors plainly not to link everyday words, common occupations, or major geographic locations, on the grounds that such links dilute the useful ones and waste the reader’s attention.

Ten of the nineteen links on Craft’s page are precisely the category the guideline names.

The companion guideline, WP:UNDERLINK, states the other half: articles should link the subjects a reader would plausibly want to know more about.

The list of what is left unlinked on Craft's page — a nine-year pageant campaign, a documentary film, a national seashore, a published investigation, a feminist journal — is that guideline's definition, item for item.

The page does not fail to follow Wikipedia's linking policy. It follows it in reverse.

An editor already noticed

This is not an outside interpretation imposed on the record. It exists inside the record.

On April 16, 2025, an editor using the name Serenewilliams made a small edit to the page and left this summary in the permanent revision history:

> *"Myth California Anti-Pageant needs a Wikipedia page."*

Someone working on the article saw the gap and wrote it down. Fifteen months later, there is still no article on the Myth California Anti-Pageant, and the phrase in Craft's biography still leads nowhere — while the city where it happened leads to a page about the local climate and population.

A protest campaign that ran for nine years, drew national press, produced a documentary reviewed in The New York Times, and ended with a beauty pageant leaving town is not a marginal subject. Its absence is not a judgment that it was unimportant. Nobody made that judgment. Nobody made any judgment. It simply was not done, while the roads to Mesquite and to lawn care were built and maintained.

The trap underneath

There is a reason this cannot be fixed by the obvious method.

"Busting Mister Short-Eyes" is a published article. It appeared in On the Issues in the winter of 1995, a feminist journal edited by Merle Hoffman, and it documented a naturist child rapist who was subsequently sentenced. It is a real publication in a real periodical with a real editor. That is the exact category of source Wikipedia says it wants.

It was removed from the page.

If Craft restores it, she is editing her own biography to add her own work, and the word for that on Wikipedia is self-promotion. The conflict-of-interest banner sitting permanently on her talk page — naming her account, unarchived — ensures any such edit is read in that light before it is read at all.

So the material is removed by others, and its restoration by the subject is disqualified in advance. There is no move available that is not already characterized.

The same structure appeared in 1975. The Wall Street Journal covered Craft’s Rockwell International action on its front page. That page was not available online anywhere — it existed in the Journal’s paid archive and in Craft’s own files, and nowhere a reader could reach. She scanned it and posted it. Posting it was then treated as self-aggrandizement.

The document did not change. A Wall Street Journal front page is among the most reliable sources an encyclopedia recognizes. What changed was who pointed at it. Cited by a researcher, it is evidence. Cited by its subject, it becomes a personal claim — and a personal claim can be dismissed without anyone ever engaging what the document says.

Activists who preserve their own archives are penalized for having preserved them: the material is self-authored, therefore suspect. Activists who preserve nothing are told no sources exist. Those who emerge with clean citations are the ones who had an institution doing the documenting on their behalf — a publisher, a university, a press office — which is to say, the ones who already had access to power.

What a link is

It would be possible to read all of this as a quarrel about formatting. It is not.

A link is an assertion that something exists and is worth knowing about. It is how an encyclopedia says: this is real, there is more, go and see. To leave a subject unlinked is to leave it as a phrase rather than a thing — a string of words in someone’s biography, unconfirmed by any other page, connected to nothing.

Follow every link on Nikki Craft’s Wikipedia page and you will learn what a groundskeeper does, where Mesquite is, what a class action suit is, and what progressivism means. You will not arrive anywhere that tells you what she did.

The page reads as sourced. It carries citations, a reference list, a bibliography. It has the shape of a documented life. But the roads all lead away from the subject and out into general knowledge, and the things that actually happened sit there as bare phrases, going nowhere, waiting for someone with standing to point at them.

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Every link described in this document was catalogued on July 29, 2026, from the live English Wikipedia article as it stood following the revision of 00:12, 3 June 2026. Link counts, targets, and the absence of links are verifiable against that revision and against the page's permanent history.